

PRESS RELEASE

Erik C. Peterson
United States Attorney
Western District of Wisconsin
(608) 264-5158
TTY (608) 264-5006
www.usdoj.gov/usao/wiw

For Immediate Release

May 3, 2007

Contact Person

Rita M. Rumbelow
Assistant U.S. Attorney

Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced the filing of a complaint yesterday in U.S. District Court Madison, charging Arthur A. Garcia, 29, Rice Lake, with being an unlawful user of marijuana in possession of firearms. If convicted, Garcia faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison.

On April 30, 2007, the Rice Lake Police Department executed a no-knock search warrant at Garcia's home in Rice Lake. According to the information in the search warrant, Garcia had marijuana and a large number of weapons in his house. The warrant also established that Garcia frequently smokes marijuana.

In Garcia's home, officers recovered a Taurus .44 caliber pistol; a Taurus .44 caliber pistol; a Bushmaster .223 caliber rifle; an H&K USP Tactical .45 caliber pistol; a Benelli 12 gauge shotgun; and a Vulcan Arms .50 caliber rifle. Receipts for some of the firearms, in Garcia's name, were found in a lock box. Officers also recovered hundreds of rounds of various caliber ammunition; a bullet proof vest; a skull bong with burnt residue on it (which tested positive for THC); two rolled marijuana cigarettes (which tested positive for THC); and approximately ten grams of a substance that tested

positive for THC.

On May 2, 2007, Agent Jason Salerno and Rice Lake Detective Tracy Hom met with Garcia. After being advised of his constitutional rights, Garcia agreed to answer questions. In a recorded interview, Garcia told the officers that he began using marijuana when he was 19 years old. Garcia said he regularly used marijuana until the age of 24, when he quit. Garcia said he did not smoke marijuana again until the end of 2006 and that he has used it 2-3 times a week since that time. Garcia claimed the last time he smoked marijuana was on April 29, 2007. Garcia said he smoked the marijuana from a bong. Garcia described the bong, which matched the description of the bong located in his residence.

The charge against Garcia is the result of an investigation conducted by the Rice Lake Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. The prosecution of this case has been assigned to Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

#